GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2062
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
MARRIAGE OF MINOR GIRLS
Shukla Smt. Karuna

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of young poor girls married on contractual basis for a short period to foreign nationals from the Gulf countries have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the agents and steps taken to rehabilitate such poor girls;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents;

(e) whether the National Commission for Women has enquired into the matter; and

(f) if so, the recommendations and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) The National Commission for Women took suo-moto cognizance in the case of marriage of a minor girl aged 16 years who was sold to Yemani National for Rs. 10,000/-under the guise of marriage by a close female relative at DombivaH, Thane District, Maharashtra.

(c),(d)&(e) A team of the National Commission for Women was constituted to investigate the matter. After investigation, the matter was taken up with State Government for taking steps to avoid recurrence of such incidences.

(f) The matter was taken up by the Department of Women and Child Development with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that India`s diplomatic missions in the Gulf countries hve been instructed to discreetly monitor those seeking visas to ascertain the genuineness of the intended purpose of the visit. The Embassies of the Gulf countries have been apprised of this issue during the Gulf Division`s interaction with these embassies. The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that as far as enforcement of Foreigners Act vis-a-vis lodges and hotels is concerned instructions have already been issued that Managers of all hotels and lodges should report to the police within 24 hours of the arrival of any foreigner in their hotels. They are required to obtain information in the prescribed form indicating the details of the foreigners, viz. name, nationality, passport number, etc.